



For immediate release

IDOC and Johnson Controls Celebrate Earth Day

Indianapolis, IN (May 4, 2012) – In celebration of the 42nd Anniversary of Earth Day, the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), in collaboration with Johnson Controls, a global leader in building efficiency, held a tree planting ceremony yesterday at the Pendleton Correctional Facility in Pendleton, IN.

IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, along with representatives from Johnson Controls, Superintendents from neighboring facilities and IDOC staff, assisted offenders from the facility's Horticulture program in planting 100 blue spruce saplings. When the trees reach full maturity, each is capable of converting over 600 lbs of harmful carbon dioxide annually into pure oxygen, what a family of four breathes in one year. The saplings were donated by Johnson Controls and will be cared for by Pendleton's Horticulture program.

Johnson Controls provides the Department with energy savings projects and physical plant upgrades for better sustainability and energy efficiency, including the installation of a wind turbine, major lighting initiatives, water conservation, and the installation of biomass boilers at four IDOC facilities.

"The IDOC is committed to sustainability and renewable energy. Both staff and offenders have embraced the greening concept and made great strides in correctional sustainability. Johnson Controls has played a vital role in many of these initiatives," commented Commissioner Lemmon.

Since partnering with Johnson Controls in 2006, the IDOC has reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by 21,649 metric tons annually, which is equivalent to 4,616 acres of planted pine trees each year. Johnson Controls recently released their list of Top Earth Day Champions and recognized the Indiana Department of Correction among the top ten organizations in the United States. The list highlights organizations that have significantly reduced their carbon footprint by saving the carbon equivalent of 45,000 acres of pine forests through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at their facilities.

Indiana has been recognized as a national leader in prison sustainability and efficiency, receiving several environmental awards. The Department's greening efforts have produced nearly 700 offender jobs within the facilities, providing offenders with marketable, green job skills that can be utilized in our communities after their release.

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IDOC Commissioner Lemmon talks about the Department's green initiatives, made possible through partnership with Johnson Controls.



Commissioner Lemmon lends a hand, preparing a spot for a tree.



Dan Granahan, with Johnson Controls, plants one of the blue spruce saplings.



Two offenders from Pendleton's Horticulture class, who will assist in caring for the trees, plant a sapling.